

1 vote in my first election. I took special
2 interest and became involved in the local school
3 board election. And examining these races
4 closely, it became clear that there was a
5 concerted, well-funded effort to elect a
6 corporate backed slate of candidates.

7 Most Seattlites depend on these few
8 mainstream sources for issues ranging from
9 environmental, military, and education. And
10 these few mainstreamed sources endorsed those
11 corporate candidates.

12 Despite a huge grassroots effort to
13 oppose the privatization of our schools, Seattle
14 voters elected every corporate slate candidate to
15 the school board, putting in power the most
16 conservative board in 20 years.

17 The corporate media is already
18 streamlined behind the one agenda. The
19 consolidation of media is a consolidation of
20 opinion. The diversity in media is a necessity
21 for a thriving democratic society.

22 And as a conscious citizen I demand

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1 that the FCC defend local media and stop media
2 monopolies.

3 I also want to express disappointment
4 in the FCC for only giving five business days of
5 notice before this event. This is unacceptable.
6 This event could have -- could have and should
7 have been much more accommodating for all people.

8 Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

11 Gavin Dahl.

12 MR. DAHL: We have a college student
13 on stage tonight. What's up, people? I'm
14 Radioactive Gavin, 21st century broadcaster
15 currently the producer of Digital Crossroads,
16 Fridays at noon on KOS, Olympia.

17 People who move might have heard the
18 campaign I produced for AM 90 called Seattle
19 Speaks Out Against the War in Iraq. That was me
20 with the microphone asking your opinion.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. DAHL: Commissioner Adelstein

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1 heard a hip-hop set I spun at Radio X Seattle
2 Indymedia. We had a beer that night.

3 Look. For Chairman Martin this is it.
4 When Bush's term is over, he'd done. That's the
5 way it is. Still, right now, right now, it's not
6 too late for Martin to leave behind a legacy.

7 You know the American people, 99
8 percent of us want you to protect what little
9 diversity and localism we've got.

10 I know it took courage to come to
11 Seattle and face us, so much courage. I respect
12 you.

13 So there's one more thing we need to
14 demand of the FCC. Come on, Kev, be courageous.
15 When analogue TVs go dark in 2009, no more rabbit
16 ears. We should use the beach front property
17 call the 700 megahertz spectrum freed up to
18 foster a new competition with what we have now
19 for high speed internet.

20 A lot of people call them the "carrier
21 cartel." Phone and cable companies who have the
22 duopolies providing broadband and DSL that is too

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1 expensive, not as fast as other industrialized
2 nations and rates go up constantly unless we lock
3 in long contracts.

4 Come on, Kev, you've used the
5 internet. Let's use the spectrum of 700 megahertz
6 and white spaces to improve Americans' access to
7 our new 21st century public utility, the
8 internet.

9 (Applause.)

10 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Stephen Sharrett.

11 MR. SHARRETT: A poll conducted and
12 tabulated by my college professor based on
13 Michael Gruavich and Jay --

14 (Off mic comment.)

15 MR. SHARRETT: -- political assistance
16 and democratic values. 30 plus students ages 18
17 to 50 were polled. A majority strongly agreed an
18 ideal responsible media would present a dialogue
19 across a diverse range of views as well as
20 between power holders and mass public.

21 It would provide incentives for
22 citizens to learn, choose, and become involved in

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1 the political process in addition to supporting a
2 principled resistance to efforts of forces
3 outside the media to subvert their independent
4 integrity and ability to serve the audience, the
5 public.

6 This same poll showed that these same
7 persons strongly disagreed that our current and
8 real media system meets these same responsible
9 tasks.

10 I do not now doubt that this opinion
11 is held by more persons than the 30 plus polled.

12 The results of this poll illustrate a
13 failure on the part of you Commissioners to
14 insure that your media brio meet two crucial
15 goals of your public policy -- diversity and
16 localism.

17 Furthermore, the changes you wish to
18 make to the rules currently under review do not
19 coincide with your public policy goals. In fact,
20 they undermine competition, subvert diversity,
21 and annihilate localism.

22 It is my demand that you abide by

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1 Section 202.a to the Telecom Act of 1996, take
2 into account the public interest, and ignore
3 corporate necessity.

4 (Applause.)

5 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

6 Rhonda Hue.

7 MS. HUE: Hello. My name is Rhonda
8 Hue, and I work in affordable housing here in
9 Seattle. A total lack of regard for my work
10 schedule has severely impacted my work schedule
11 today in providing very low income applicants my
12 services. Everybody has the right for free
13 speech.

14 I am here tonight to protest against
15 the FCC not to relax the media ownership rules.
16 What I want is less corporation control and more
17 media ownership by minorities and women, more,
18 not less; media access for immigrants, more, not
19 less; and local community access to the airwaves,
20 more, not less.

21 By not relaxing the current media rule
22 it will allow local concerns to be heard, which

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1 will benefit all the public. Today, six
2 corporations control more than half of everything
3 Americans watch, listen to, or reads every day.
4 That is an astonishing level of concentrated
5 media power, and it's still turning in the wrong
6 direction.

7 Relaxing the rule will allow more
8 corporations to control our local community
9 information. The FCC has already given too much
10 away. More consolidation means less local
11 coverage.

12 I volunteer at a local DV shelter,
13 domestic violence, with Somalian women who are
14 immigrants who have escaped poverty, violence,
15 rape, crime, and uncertainty from their country.
16 These women deserve the chance to express their
17 exceptional experience through unbiased media,
18 through local and public TV.

19 Do not change the rules, but
20 strengthen them.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

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1 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Shaney
2 Sales. Shaney Sales.

3 MS. SALES: Hello. My name is Shaney
4 Sales. I'm a local student at Noble Alternative
5 High School as well as a social justice activist.

6 The consolidation, corporatization,
7 and privatization we are protesting today is not
8 exclusive to the media. We are experiencing an
9 onslaught of centralization in all realms in this
10 nation, from public education and charter schools
11 to healthcare, Social Security and the
12 privatization of the military.

13 The driving force behind this movement
14 is the complicit corporate media that represents
15 -- misrepresents important issues when they are
16 deemed too controversial.

17 Furthering the consolidation of the
18 media continues to disconnect we, the people,
19 from a diverse, accurate, and community based
20 news media that gets its facts from the source.
21 As our country and the world as a whole is
22 privatized more and more each day, it is

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1 absolutely vital for news media to be educational
2 and truly fair and balanced so the people can
3 react accordingly.

4 A society with consolidated, one track
5 media is an uneducated one, and an uneducated
6 society is an undemocratic one. Media
7 consolidation is undemocratic.

8 Thank you.

9 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

10 David Bloom.

11 REVERAND BLOOM: I'm the Reverend
12 David Bloom. I'm speaking on behalf of myself
13 and the Reverend Tim Shulitz of the University
14 Baptist Church in Seattle.

15 As a leader from a religious tradition
16 that is rooted in cultural diversity and built
17 upon democratic principles, our history has
18 taught us the devastating impact of limiting or
19 consolidating the public voice in all arenas of
20 our democracy.

21 That limiting of the religious and
22 political voice in colonial America was

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1 responsible for the persecution of our Baptist
2 ancestor Roger Williams and prompted Virginia
3 Baptist preacher John Leland to advocate for the
4 separation of church and state and the
5 establishment of a Constitutional Bill of Rights.

6 Consolidation of the public voice is
7 a threat to those hard-won rights that were meant
8 to protect and even expand the diversity of
9 voices as over against the all too common efforts
10 by powerful elite, whether religious, political,
11 or commercial, to demand conformity.

12 In the current cultural climate we
13 have seen this tendency toward conformity as the
14 corporate media's fascination with the religious
15 right, and the mega church movement has
16 effectively muted religious voices that represent
17 a different point of view. As a result --

18 (Applause.)

19 REVEREND BLOOM: As a result, we have
20 seen the consolidation of the public voice
21 striking at the very heart of our value for
22 diversity. Fundamental to that value is our

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1 historic commitment to freedom. Diversity
2 thrives when true freedom exists, and
3 increasingly that freedom has to do with access.

4 Given the growing religious, ethnic,
5 and political diversity of our society, we should
6 be talking about creating more access to the
7 public voice, not less. Our freedom depends on
8 it. Moreover, our survival as a democracy
9 requires that we have a robust and diverse media
10 that guarantees access by the many voices that
11 comprise our democracy. Corporate consolidation
12 represents only one voice, and it is nowhere near
13 enough.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

17 Before I announce the next speaker,
18 would the following people go to the nearest
19 microphone: Callie Shanafelt, Luke Heuer, Dany
20 Kojita, Alex Stonehill, Sarah Stuteville, Jessica
21 Partnow, Liz Brown, Diane Brennan, Sami
22 Muilenburg.

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1 Jim Joelson.

2 MR. JOELSON: Good evening, Mr. Chair
3 and members of the FCC. For the record I am
4 opposed to corporate monopolies and media
5 consolidation.

6 I've been a writer, political writer
7 since I was in junior high school writing civil
8 rights literature for my junior high school paper
9 in New York. I've been in both political
10 parties, so I'm neither fans of the far left or
11 the far right.

12 What I do know is this: The most
13 important political right we have is free
14 expression and free speech, because the right to
15 vote doesn't mean a damn thing if we're not
16 getting full information.

17 (Applause.)

18 J. P. Morgan once said that there are
19 two reasons for everything, a good reason and a
20 real reason. We all know that the purpose of
21 this consolidation has to do with profits and
22 money. Nothing wrong with profits. I'm

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1 supportive of profits. Big corporations give us
2 technology and the gathering of capital,
3 unemployment and George W. Bush and the Iraq War.

4 We absolutely have to make a choice in
5 this country between whether we want to sacrifice
6 what we are all about in terms of personal
7 liberty and options and freedom as opposed to
8 monumental profits. I'm for profits, but we can
9 not trade profits and dollars for our heritage
10 and everything that this country represents to us
11 and the rest of the world.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

15 Julie Enevoldsen.

16 MS. ENEVOLDSEN: Good evening. I'm
17 here to talk to you about something dear to your
18 hearts, which is decency. I ask the FCC to
19 defend us against indecency. Now I do find crude
20 language to be tiresome. I do find exposure of
21 private body parts to be banal. I do find lewd
22 behavior to be tedious.

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1 But what I find to be truly indecent
2 is the cynicism behind this plan to give more
3 control to ever fewer, increasingly powerful
4 corporations over the information that's
5 available to American citizens. I find it truly
6 indecent that corporate money appears to be speak
7 to the FCC louder than our voices.

8 (Applause.)

9 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

10 Callie Shanafelt.

11 MS. SHANAFELT: My name is Callie
12 Shanafelt. I produce Voices of Diversity, which
13 is a weekly, hour long, public affairs radio
14 program --

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. SHANAFELT: -- on our community
17 radio station 91.3 FM KVCS. The show seeks to
18 get people on the air who aren't usually heard in
19 the mainstream media. I feel that Voices of
20 Diversity plays a vital role in our democracy
21 and that it provides those who are most affected
22 by the pressing human issues of our area a

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1 platform to get their voices heard.

2 For example, we facilitated a
3 discussion on the environmental impact of diesel
4 fuel at the Port of Seattle long before the
5 mainstream media picked up the story. We made
6 sure to include truck drivers who are struggling
7 to upgrade their vehicles, residents who feel the
8 environmental impact as well as policy makers.

9 We also produced a program with Iraq
10 veterans to discuss the direction the United
11 States should take in Iraq.

12 We've spoken with members of the local
13 Burmese community about what's happening in their
14 country and the changes they'd like to see.

15 We've also conversed with transgender
16 individuals about the persecution they face in
17 Seattle and their hopes for the future.

18 All of these voices are rarely if ever
19 heard in the mainstream media landscape. It's
20 crucial that community media is protected and
21 given resources to fulfill its purpose.

22 Last year we almost lost our public

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1 access TV station. Because it will no longer be
2 funded by the cable company and soon won't be
3 funded by the City of Seattle, it's been forced
4 to change its model. This change restricts
5 community access to the airwaves we were once
6 guaranteed.

7 Further media consolidation would only
8 reduce the forms available to marginalized
9 voices.

10 The role of the media is to serve the
11 public good. As a taxpayer I am outraged that
12 you would change the regulations to subsidize
13 companies who aren't fulfilling that purpose.
14 Please vote against any further media
15 consolidation.

16 (Applause.)

17 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

18 MR. HEUER: Hello, FCC. My name is
19 Luke Heuer. I'm the music director at KAOS 89.3
20 Community Radio in Olympia, Washington.

21 And I am just fascinated with the
22 reason -- the increasing popular opinion that

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1 radio is outdated. True, it is no longer the
2 cultural institution it once was. But why is it
3 that most people cringe at trudging through the
4 radio dial?

5 A popular Seattle newspaper, The
6 Stranger, printed an article October 31st titled
7 "Left Off The Dial". And I quote, "There's no
8 point to radio anymore." I disagree, but the
9 cultural lag of corporate and Clear Channel radio
10 is laughable.

11 A large portion of the audience that
12 corporate radio directs their advertising to have
13 no respect for the station, and therefore, the
14 message they are shoving down our throat. They
15 are probably listening to it only because they
16 are in the dentist office or they cannot afford
17 an iPod, and therefore cannot afford most of the
18 crap being advertised in the first place.

19 (Laughter.)

20 MR. HEUER: I am fortunate enough to
21 be employed by and a DJ for a community radio
22 station, so I know firsthand what individual

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1 programming by caring and knowledgeable hosts
2 does to the quality of a radio show.

3 With the inflexible rotation system
4 and the cultural homogenization of cul -- of
5 corporate radio -- excuse me -- their so-called
6 "new music" is quickly yesterday's one hit
7 wonder. But not so with community radio who
8 embraces the independent artist.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. HEUER: The greed of the so-called
11 "mainstream media" should not cloud our news and
12 entertainment. After all, as it's been stated
13 before, these are our public airwaves. They are
14 no longer the mainstream. We are clearly the
15 mainstream.

16 Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Dany Kojita. Dany
19 Kojita. Alex Stonehill.

20 AUDIENCE: Dany's in a wheelchair.
21 He's up in the top.

22 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Okay.

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1 MR. KOJITA: Greetings. My name is
2 Zulu King Khazm. I'm a Seattle native resident
3 here, just doing my thing. I represent the
4 Universal Zulu Nation Seattle Chapter, as well as
5 Zulu Radio of KBCS 91.3, Hip-Hop 101 TV on SCAN,
6 also an artist, educator, and just a concerned
7 citizen of what's going on over here.

8 And basically what I'm seeing is a
9 monopoly that's not fair. We don't have our --
10 As far as what we're doing with the radio and the
11 media and the television, we're doing that out of
12 necessity. You know what I'm saying? Because we
13 don't have the opportunity to get in there. We
14 can't align ourselves with the labels and the
15 radios and such. It's a lockhold, you know what
16 I mean?

17 And as an educator, you know I'm
18 working in a lot of middle schools, high schools,
19 even colleges right now, undoing, you know, this,
20 this mind state that they have about hip-hop.

21 Hip-hop is a universal culture that
22 transcends all boundaries of humanity. In it's

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1 core it's a positive thing. Why we are seeing,
2 you know, images of people flashing their cash,
3 throwing in the screens, you know, just building
4 this image that that's what success is. That's
5 not what hip-hop is about. You know what I mean?
6 So there's a lot of indecency going on.

7 As far as the roots of hip-hop, people
8 don't even know where it came from but it's a
9 phenomenon that's embraced and touched millions
10 of people around the planet. You know what I
11 mean? Right now I'm calling to the world to
12 recognize that November is hip-hop history month,
13 you know, being that it manifested about 33 years
14 around this time.

15 Zulu Nation has been the foundation.
16 It's been the organization that's brought the
17 gangs and all the different people together to
18 unify and strengthen ourselves.

19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

20 MR. KOJITA: Media consolidation --

21 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

22 MR. KOJITA: -- can't do that.

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1 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

2 MR. KOJITA: All right. Peace.

3 (Applause.)

4 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Alex Stonehill.

5 MR. STONEHILL: Thank you. My name is
6 Alex Stonehill. I'm an independent journalist
7 specializing in international reporting. Last
8 year I spent about seven months abroad covering
9 stories that hadn't been reported in our
10 mainstream press here in the U.S., especially
11 about how the actions of our government and our
12 people are affecting people in the rest of the
13 world.

14 When I came back I had a really hard
15 time finding American media outlets to publish
16 these stories. At first I thought I was doing
17 something wrong, but when I started attending
18 corporate journalism conferences and building
19 relationships with corporate media outlets, I
20 realized it wasn't just my problem.

21 Because of media consolidation, there
22 just aren't very many outlets that offer original

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1 international reporting. The big media
2 conglomerates don't find international coverage
3 because they're too concerned with the bottom
4 lines and they think that it's too expensive.

5 Instead, virtually every newspaper in
6 the country buys the stories from the AP and
7 other news wires. The big news corporations have
8 been closing foreign bureaus at such a rapid pace
9 that today for all the U.S. newspapers combined
10 there are less than 250 foreign correspondents to
11 cover the globe.

12 I'm sure everyone here can agree that
13 it would be disastrous for our country to be cut
14 off from information from outside of our borders
15 at a time when our fates are so interconnected by
16 things like economic globalization, climate
17 change, and our military involvements abroad.
18 But that's just what's going to happen if you
19 relax media ownership regulations further. So
20 please don't do it.

21 And in my last few seconds, Mr.
22 Chairman, in response to your brief statement,

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1 please take responsibility for the enormous power
2 that you have, especially in comparison to all of
3 us here, and don't pass the buck on to Congress.
4 Heed our message that media consolidation needs
5 to stop now.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

9 Sarah Stuteville.

10 MS. STUTEVILLE: Good evening. My
11 name is Sarah Stuteville. I'm a journalist that
12 works both locally and internationally. I'm also
13 cofounder of a Seattle based nonprofit online
14 magazine called the Common Language Project.
15 Part of the work I do includes conducting media
16 literacy workshops in some Seattle area public
17 high schools.

18 I feel that young people deserve
19 information about the role journalism and media
20 play in our society and should be part of the
21 discussion regarding how these institutions have
22 been failing to provide the public service we so

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1 desperately need to be a functional democracy.

2 The issue of media consolidation often
3 comes up. And you might think the issues of
4 media policy, consolidation, and the failings of
5 state might be too dense for your average tenth
6 grader, but really they get it pretty quick.

7 I remember an afternoon in Kent Public
8 High School. I showed students a chart that
9 illustrated how every single media outlet they
10 had listed as a source for information in their
11 lives was owned by one of six companies.

12 Afterwards we followed their media
13 sources back to often identical and interlocking
14 boards of directors that showed the big money
15 connections between corporations like General
16 Electric and Coca-Cola and their news sources.
17 There was a brief silence as the class absorbed
18 the complex source of money, power, and the
19 control of information.

20 Then one student raised his hand and
21 said, "So you're telling me that only six
22 companies own all the TV I watch, radio I listen

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1 to, movies I see and websites I visit?" "Yep," I
2 replied.

3 "And," he continued, "that the company
4 that makes my breakfast cereal, manufacturers
5 weapons for the war in Iraq, also may be a member
6 of the board of directors for the newspaper I
7 read or the news I watch tonight?" "Yeah," I
8 said more quiet.

9 Commissioners, if you had been there
10 in that room, in that classroom in that moment,
11 you would not have to have this hearing today
12 because the look of horror and disgust on that
13 17-year-old's face would convince you that you
14 have to stop media consolidation. You have to
15 protect him and the democracy he lives in from
16 corporate consolidation of the news and
17 information that we receive. You have to.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

21 Jessica Partnow.

22 MS. PARTNOW: My name is Jessica

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